



# United States Navy Biography

## Rear Admiral Gregory J. Smith

**Chief, Public Affairs, Communication Division, Strategic Effects, Multi-National Force-Iraq**



Rear Admiral Smith, a career Navy Public Affairs officer, is the Communication Division Chief, Strategic Effects, Multi-National Force-Iraq. He previously served as the U.S. Navy's Chief of Information (CHINFO) serving as principal spokesman for the Department of the Navy and providing strategic communication counsel to the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations. As CHINFO, he managed the Navy's public affairs community, which included more than 2,500 active and reserve officer and enlisted and civilian communication professionals.

At the time of his selection to Flag in May 2006, Rear Adm. Smith was serving as Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Vice Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additional joint and NATO experience included serving as Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Joint Forces Command and Chief of Public Information for NATO's Allied Command Transformation. During this period, he oversaw the establishment of the Joint Public Affairs Support Element (JPASE), which provides combatant commanders with expeditionary public affairs, exercise and mission rehearsal training, and joint public affairs proponentcy.

Other public affairs tours of duty have included three overseas assignments to Guam, Italy, and Japan; at-sea assignments aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Nimitz* (CVN 68), aboard the U.S. Sixth Fleet flagship *USS Belknap* (CG 26), and the U.S. Seventh Fleet flagship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19); three previous tours in the Pentagon as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, media desk officer and Director of Media Operations for the Chief of Information; and in direct fleet support as director of public affairs for Naval Air Station Whiting Field/Training Air Wing Five, Submarine Forces Atlantic Fleet and Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet.

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Rear Adm. Smith received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing from the University of Iowa, and was commissioned in 1982. He was a 1997 honors graduate of Old Dominion University receiving a Master of Public Administration degree.

Rear Adm. Smith's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal (second award), Legion of Merit (second award), Meritorious Service Medal (second award), Navy Commendation Medal (fourth award) and Joint Commendation Medal (second award).

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